

Weekly COVID-19 Update in Montana (as of 6/24/2022)

This report is a weekly snapshot of COVID-19 activity in Montana. Data are analyzed based on information available as of June 24, 2022. Data are provisional and expected to change as more information is received.

Case Data

Table 1. Summary of COVID-19 Activity – Montana, as of 6/24/2022

	TOTAL	RECENT WEEK	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
REPORTED CASES	286,030	2,037	+4%
LABORATORY TESTS	2,877,371	12,516	-6%
HOSPITALIZATIONS	12,351	76	+13%
DEATHS	3,445	4	-33%

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations over Time – Montana, as of 6/24/2022

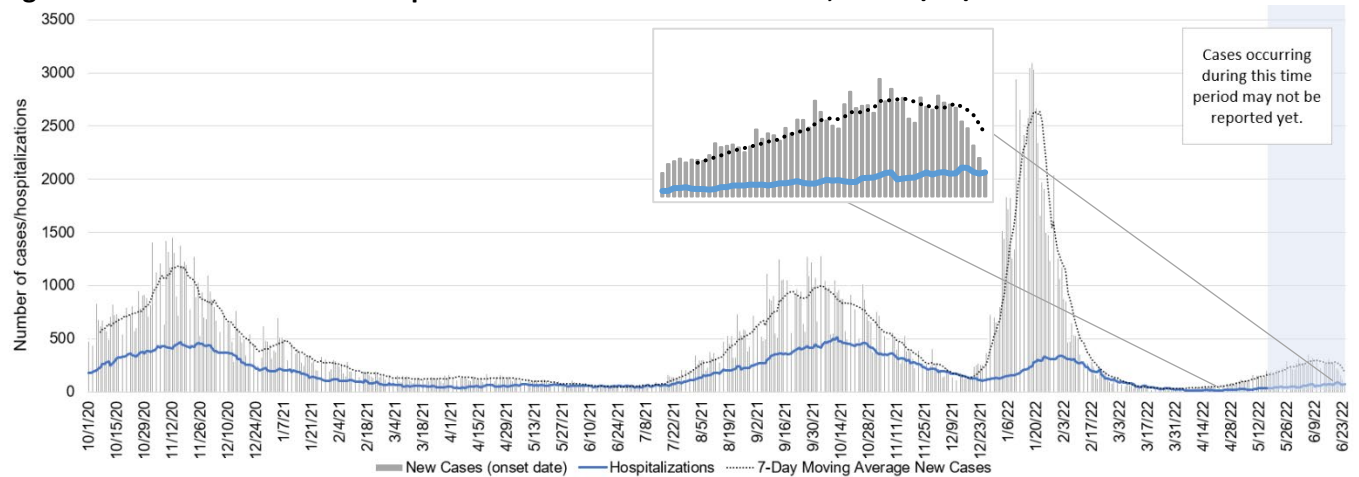


Figure 2: Status of Acute Care and ICU Beds – Hospitals in Montana, 6/15-6/28 2022

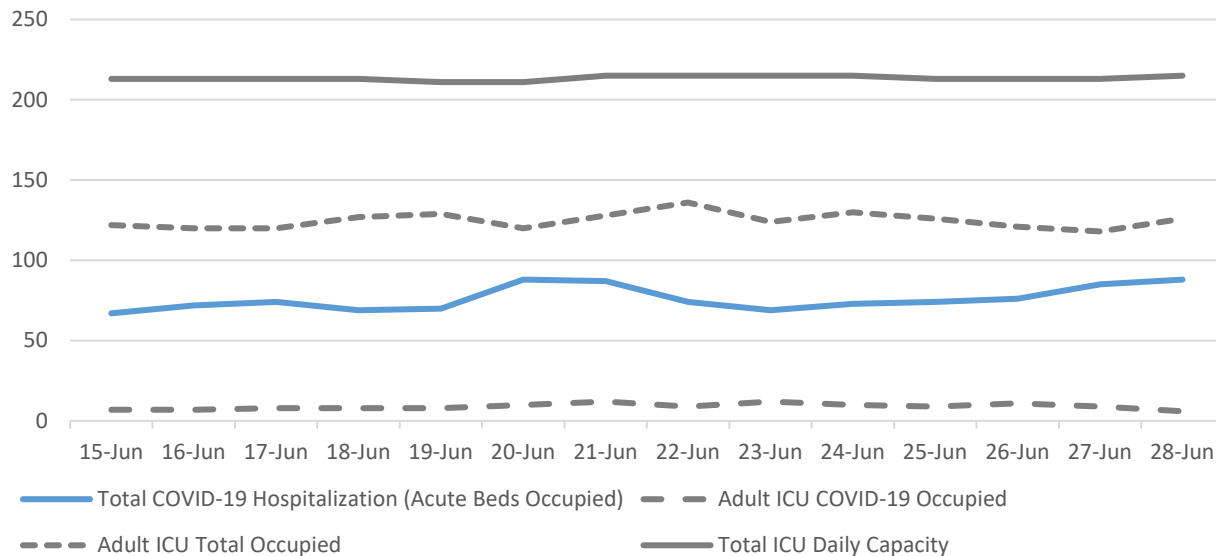
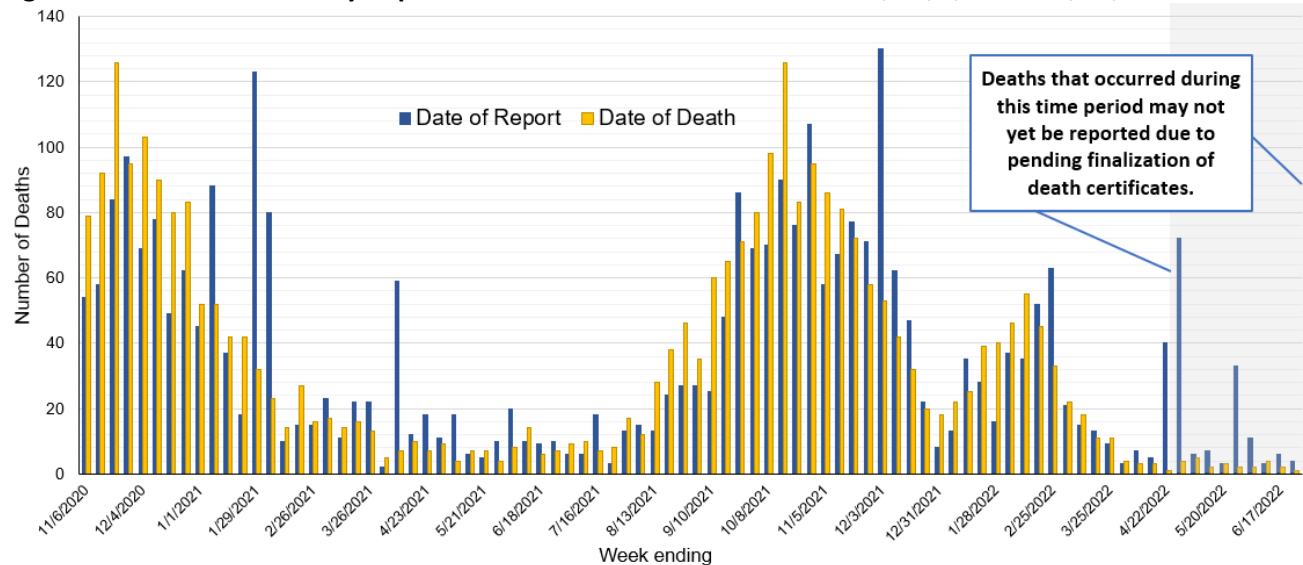


Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths by Report Date and Date of Death – Montana, 11/1/2020 – 6/24/2022



Vaccine Data

Montana began vaccinating individuals in mid-December 2020 with a phased process: Phase 1A on December 14, 2020, Phase 1B on January 19, 2021, and Phase 1B+ on March 8, 2021. Vaccinations were opened to all Montanans age 16+ on April 1, 2021 and expanded to all Montanans age 12+ on May 10th, 2021. Most recently, the Pfizer vaccine was approved for the 5-11 year old age group on October 29th, 2021. To date, 1,500,164 doses have been given across the state and 56% of the eligible population is considered fully vaccinated (table 2).

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered for the 5 and older population – Montana, as of 6/24/2022

	NUMBER	PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE POPULATION	WEEK ENDING 6/10	WEEK ENDING 6/17	WEEK ENDING 6/24*
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	1,500,164		4,823	3,698	2,919
DOSE 1 ADMINISTERED	638,546	63%	514	443	355
FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS	567,828	56%	465	385	319

*the data for the most recent week are preliminary and are expected to be an underestimate of the doses administered during the week, due to a reporting lag.

Figure 4. COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Week, 5+ Years – Montana, as of 6/24/2022

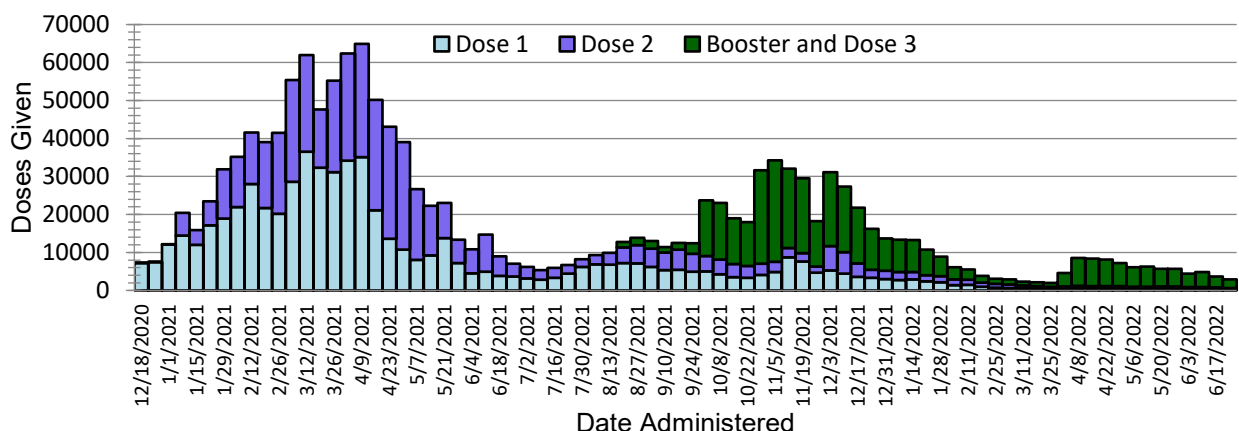
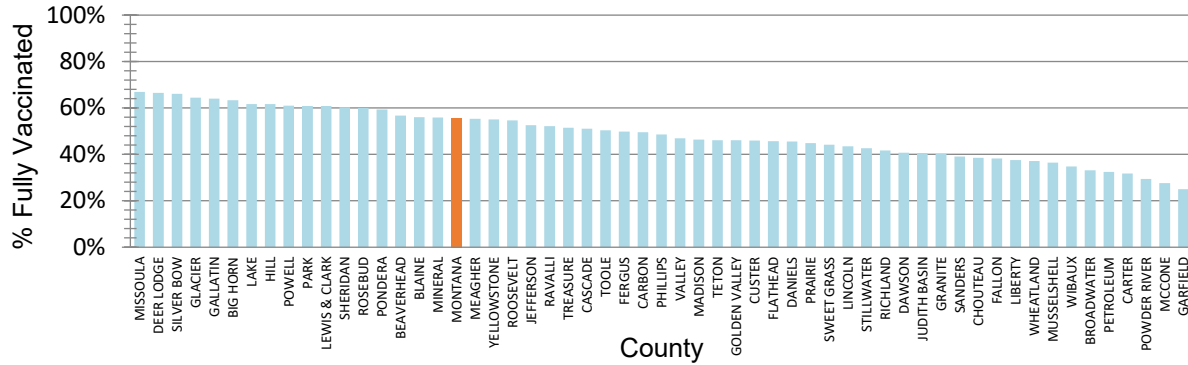


Figure 5. Percent of Eligible Montanans (5+ years) Fully Vaccinated by County – Montana, 6/24/2022



Variant and Breakthrough Cases

Figure 6 displays the number of Montana samples sequenced by week. Figure 7 displays the percentage of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages detected out of all Montana samples sequenced by week. There have been 17,037 samples from Montana that have been sequenced with their lineages reported to GISAID since September 2020. Please note the relatively small number of samples sequenced in recent weeks limits interpretation of the available variant sequencing data.

As of June 28, there have been 4,635 cases of COVID across Montana infected with Omicron variants. DPHHS is monitoring sublineages of the Omicron variant, including BA.2 (pink, below) and BA.2.12.1 (gold, below). Newer Omicron subvariants include BA.4 (light blue, below) first identified in Montana on May 4, 2022 and BA.5 (green, below) which was first identified in Montana on May 31, 2022. There have been 103 sequences reported to GISAID from positive samples collected in the last four weeks—59 (57%) BA.2.12.1, 30 (29%) BA.2, 7 (7%) BA.4, and 7 (7%) BA.5. Please note that no positive samples that were collected the week ending June 25, 2022, were sequenced nor reported to GISAID.

Figure 6. Number of COVID-19 samples sequenced by collection date, Montana 6/25/2022

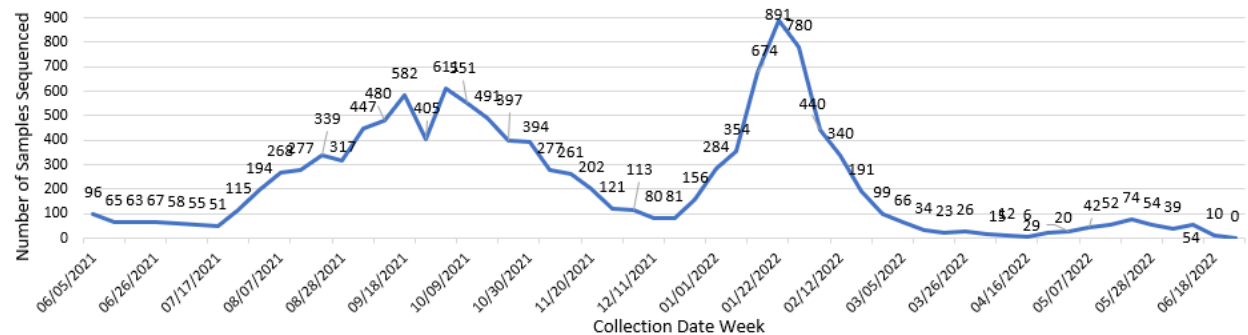
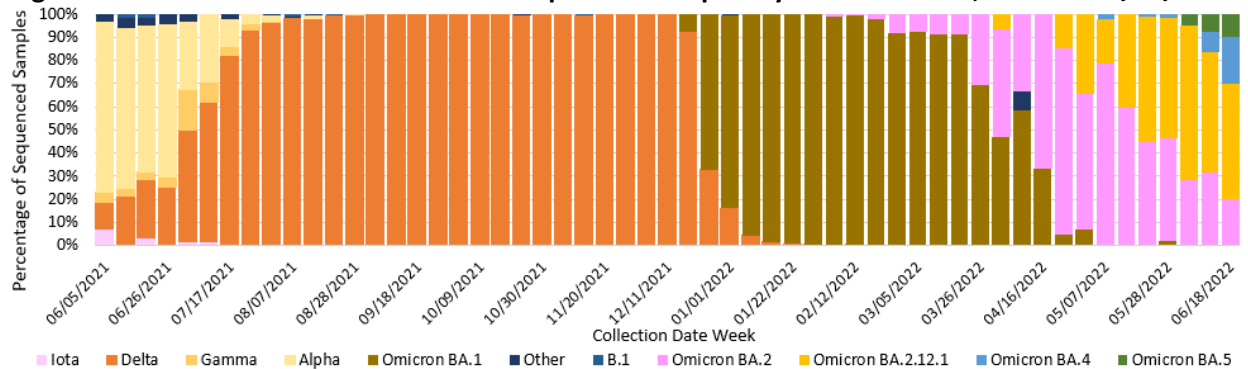


Figure 7. Percent of COVID-19 variants in sequenced samples by collection date, Montana 6/25/2022



A breakthrough COVID-19 infection is defined as a positive SARS-CoV-2 specimen collected ≥ 14 days after completing the primary COVID-19 vaccine series of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Studies show that protection from COVID vaccination decreases over time; in response, the CDC has recommended booster doses for eligible populations to protect against waning immunity. As of June 28, 2022, Montana reports 49,891 cases of confirmed breakthrough disease, which includes 1,689 hospitalizations and 442 deaths. CDC data from April 2022 show that unvaccinated individuals aged 5 years and older were 1.9 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19, compared to individuals vaccinated with at least a primary series in the same age group. Additionally, unvaccinated individuals 5 and older had 6 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to individuals vaccinated with at least a primary series in the same age group.¹

Hospitalizations and Deaths and Vaccination Status

COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths were analyzed between **April 1, 2021 and June 24, 2022** to review vaccination status. Since the beginning of April 2021, 78% of Montanans who were hospitalized and 76% of those who died were unvaccinated at the time of infection (Table 3). Of the 7,507 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 151 (2%) were <18 years old, 1,020 (14%) were 18 to 44 years old, 2,388 (32%) were 45 to 64 years old and 3,948 (53%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Additionally, COVID-19-related hospitalization and death data from **April 30 – June 24, 2022** (last 8 weeks) were analyzed to review vaccination status. Forty-seven percent of Montanans who were hospitalized and 62% of those who died had not received a COVID-19 vaccine (Table 4)[†]. Of the 430 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 14 (3%) were <18 years old, 59 (14%) were 18 to 44 years old, 78 (18%) were 45 to 64 years old and 279 (65%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Table 3. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – April 1, 2021 to June 24, 2022

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	7,507	1,846
UNVACCINATED	5,826 (78%)	1,406 (76%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	1,681 (22%)	440 (24%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-102 (63)	<1-103 (71)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	7-103 (73)	20-101 (81)

Table 4. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – April 30 to June 24, 2022

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	430	21
UNVACCINATED	201 (47%)	13 (62%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	229 (53%)	8 (38%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-100 (68)	55-100 (69)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	13-99 (73)	72-101 (91)

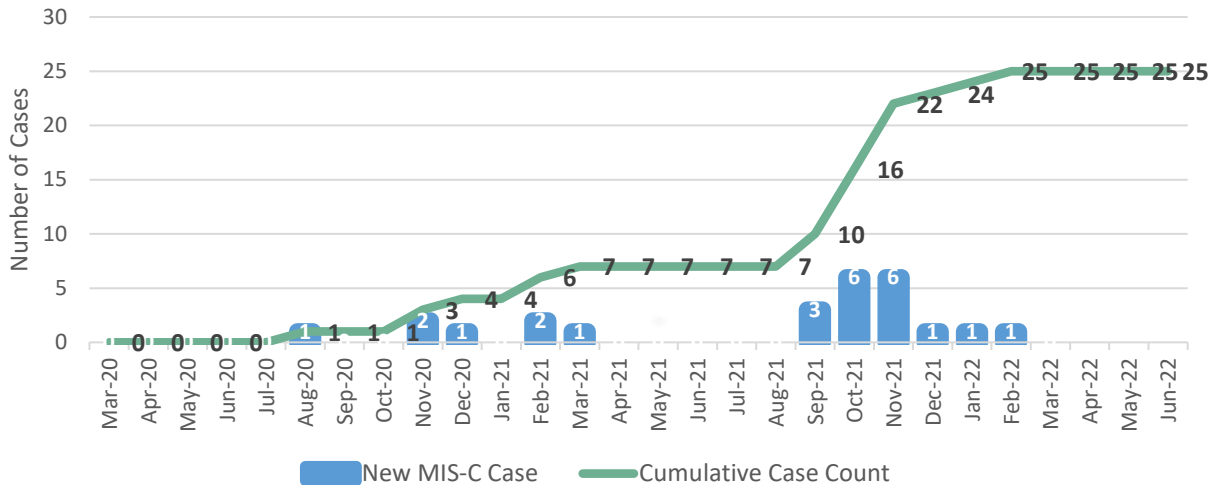
[†]The analysis of hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status does not include data on booster doses. Booster doses are recommended by the CDC and have been shown to improve protection against death from COVID-19¹.

¹ CDC – COVID Data Tracker – Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>. June 28, 2022.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

As of June 24, 2022, there have been a total of 25 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, reported in Montana. There have been no deaths. Ages range from less than 1 year to 20 years old; median is 9 years. Eleven cases were female, 14 were male. Cases are from 13 counties around Montana. The first case of MIS-C was reported in August 2020; 18 of the 25 cases have been reported since September 2021 (Figure 8).

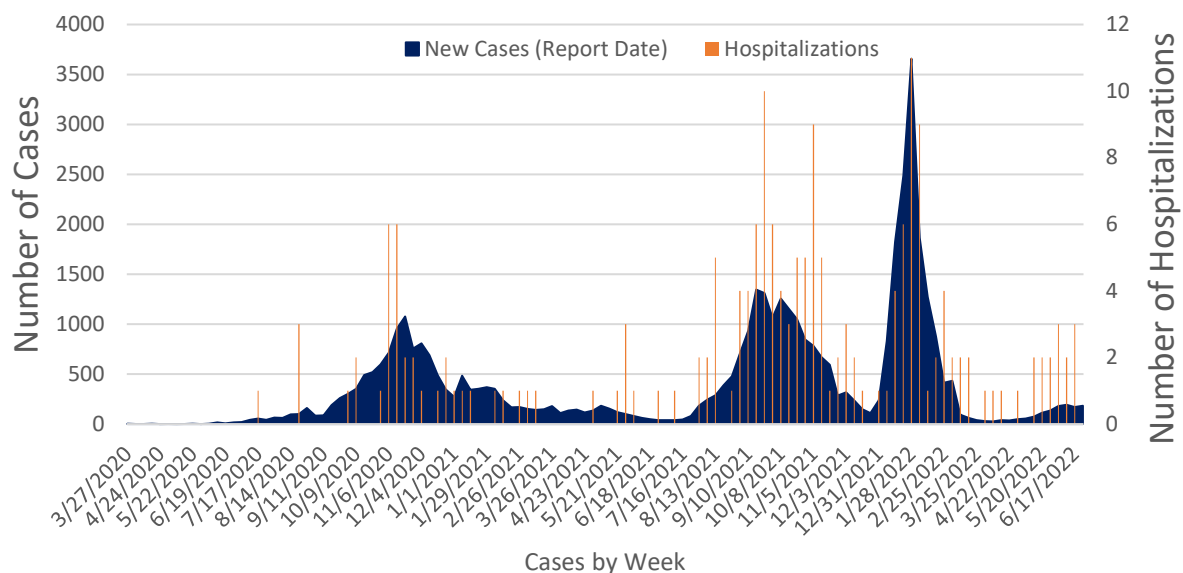
Figure 8. Montana MIS-C Cases by Month of Onset, March 2020 – June 2022



Cases and Hospitalizations Associated with COVID-19 Among Children

To date, there have been 44,161 children <18 years old in Montana diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, 187 (<1%) have been hospitalized. Case rates among children follow a similar pattern to COVID-19 cases among all age groups (see Figure 1 for comparison) and increased sharply during the recent Omicron surge (Figure 9). There were 183 cases of COVID-19 in children reported during the week of June 18 – June 24, 2022, which is a 6% increase in cases among that age group compared to the previous week. No hospitalizations in children were reported that week.

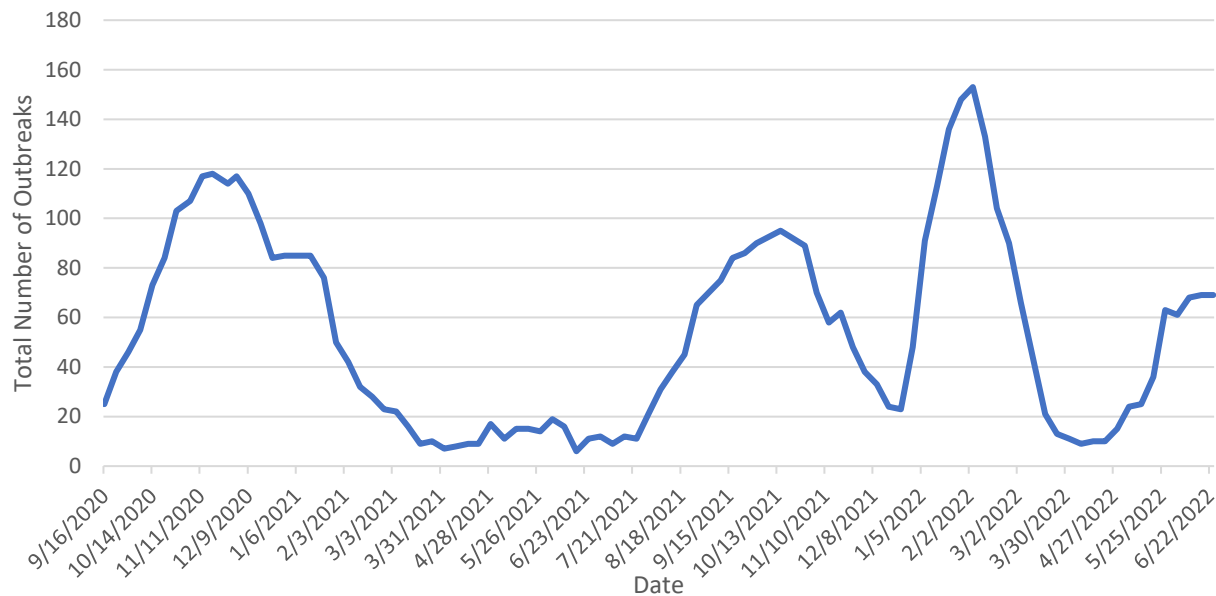
Figure 9. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by Week, March 2020 – June 24, 2022, Children <18



Assisted Living Facility and Long Term Care Facility Cases and Hospitalizations

There are 71 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and 211 assisted living facilities (ALFs) in Montana. As of June 24, 2022, there have been 11,932 cases associated with ALFs and LTCFs since the beginning of the pandemic, which comprises 4% of the total number of COVID-19 cases Montana has reported. There have been 652 COVID-related deaths associated with ALFs and LTCFs in Montana, which accounts for 19% of the COVID-related deaths that Montana has reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Facilities that have identified a case of COVID-19 in a resident or staff member within the last 14 days are considered to be actively responding to an outbreak. There are 69 facilities that are currently responding to a COVID outbreak (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Montana ALF and LTCF Outbreaks by Week, September 2020-June 2022



Reported COVID-19 Cases by County with Trendline – Montana, past 6 weeks

County	20-May	27-May	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	change from previous week*	Trendline
Beaverhead	6	11	15	15	18	25	7	
Big Horn	6	9	18	16	7	14	7	
Blaine	3	12	32	18	7	6	-1	
Broadwater	3	15	8	11	9	3	-6	
Carbon	15	8	8	9	10	10	0	
Carter	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	
Cascade	66	71	122	174	130	177	47	
Chouteau	2	1	6	9	7	7	0	
Custer	1	4	15	13	10	10	0	
Daniels	0	1	5	1	0	2	2	
Dawson	5	5	6	8	12	9	-3	
Deer Lodge	8	17	12	18	28	38	10	
Fallon	0	2	3	1	4	1	-3	
Fergus	2	5	10	20	17	5	-12	
Flathead	64	117	135	169	234	207	-27	
Gallatin	352	349	368	360	261	300	39	
Garfield	2	0	4	6	2	4	2	
Glacier	17	34	25	25	32	26	-6	
Golden Valley	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Granite	2	7	4	3	7	3	-4	
Hill	12	10	25	14	19	24	5	
Jefferson	10	15	16	23	25	32	7	
Judith Basin	0	1	2	1	3	1	-2	
Lake	25	36	71	81	78	73	-5	
Lewis and Clark	76	141	217	208	177	207	30	
Liberty	1	2	3	9	10	6	-4	
Lincoln	13	17	30	32	27	21	-6	
Madison	12	9	15	19	21	23	2	
McCone	0	4	0	0	1	3	2	
Meagher	6	14	6	7	9	2	-7	

County	20-May	27-May	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	change from previous week*	Trendline
Mineral	1	4	4	21	13	17	4	
Missoula	198	185	206	214	248	270	22	
Musselshell	2	3	3	3	5	9	4	
Park	41	48	55	46	44	33	-11	
Petroleum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Phillips	1	1	2	3	1	8	7	
Pondera	5	16	8	11	5	9	4	
Powder River	4	1	5	5	1	3	2	
Powell	3	5	13	7	8	13	5	
Prairie	0	0	2	2	2	0	-2	
Ravalli	23	22	38	56	48	43	-5	
Richland	3	2	7	19	15	8	-7	
Roosevelt	4	3	6	14	10	8	-2	
Rosebud	5	6	5	10	12	5	-7	
Sanders	3	7	9	5	14	6	-8	
Sheridan	0	1	21	9	4	9	5	
Silver Bow	19	38	31	69	86	68	-18	
Stillwater	1	5	7	9	8	7	-1	
Sweet Grass	6	1	3	2	2	2	0	
Teton	2	6	10	4	7	8	1	
Toole	0	9	2	6	6	6	0	
Treasure	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Valley	15	6	8	10	14	11	-3	
Wheatland	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	
Wibaux	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	
Yellowstone	123	170	163	190	247	252	5	
MONTANA	1170	1458	1792	1992	1966	2037	71	

*Note: Data are based on the date of report into the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). Underlined numbers in the above table reflect adjusted counts and may include cases diagnosed but not reported in earlier time frames. These adjustments result from local and state data reconciliation efforts, conducted to ensure accurate data.

County name	Eligible population 5+	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Fully Immunized	Total Doses Administered	Percent eligible with first dose (5+)	Percent Fully Vaccinated (5+)
BEAVERHEAD	9,091	5,539	4,459	3,044	5,158	13,042	61%	57%
BIG HORN	11,975	8,332	7,202	3,222	7,576	18,756	70%	63%
BLAINE	6,044	3,777	3,169	1,793	3,384	8,739	62%	56%
BROADWATER	6,092	2,405	1,771	1,186	2,016	5,362	39%	33%
CARBON	10,476	5,634	4,831	3,220	5,187	13,685	54%	50%
CARTER	1,141	382	340	195	362	917	33%	32%
CASCADE	76,124	43,512	34,696	22,074	38,818	100,282	57%	51%
CHOUTEAU	5,430	2,249	1,908	1,544	2,094	5,701	41%	39%
CUSTER	10,692	5,411	4,398	2,739	4,911	12,548	51%	46%
DANIELS	1,559	744	654	408	710	1,806	48%	46%
DAWSON	8,071	3,581	2,965	1,964	3,282	8,510	44%	41%
DEER LODGE	8,887	6,431	5,328	4,073	5,912	15,832	72%	67%
FALLON	2,646	1,089	962	535	1,012	2,586	41%	38%
FERGUS	10,495	5,550	4,824	3,429	5,230	13,803	53%	50%
FLATHEAD	99,993	52,643	41,399	27,933	45,748	121,975	53%	46%
GALLATIN	110,900	83,972	64,707	42,274	71,025	190,953	76%	64%
GARFIELD	1,188	317	254	114	297	685	27%	25%
GLACIER	12,447	10,607	7,459	3,978	8,025	22,044	85%	64%
GOLDEN VALLEY	788	395	330	195	363	920	50%	46%
GRANITE	3,218	1,477	1,185	794	1,293	3,456	46%	40%
HILL	14,914	10,000	7,793	4,815	9,191	22,608	67%	62%
JEFFERSON	11,819	6,807	5,804	4,178	6,218	16,789	58%	53%
JUDITH BASIN	1,880	816	699	476	764	1,991	43%	41%
LAKE	29,280	20,325	16,797	11,331	18,053	48,453	69%	62%
LEWIS & CLARK	66,257	45,676	37,421	27,102	40,327	110,199	69%	61%
LIBERTY	2,234	867	739	551	839	2,157	39%	38%
LINCOLN	19,480	9,546	7,759	5,405	8,480	22,710	49%	44%
MADISON	8,589	4,457	3,543	2,593	3,983	10,593	52%	46%
MCCONE	1,562	454	423	285	432	1,162	29%	28%
MEAGHER	1,726	1,014	869	633	954	2,516	59%	55%
MINERAL	4,302	2,647	1,935	1,532	2,404	6,114	62%	56%
MISSOULA	115,881	85,715	71,396	50,373	77,502	207,484	74%	67%
MUSSELSHELL	4,458	1,748	1,425	869	1,625	4,042	39%	36%
PARK	15,969	11,297	8,786	6,135	9,722	26,218	71%	61%
PETROLEUM	483	167	144	93	157	404	35%	33%
PHILLIPS	3,675	1,920	1,475	1,076	1,784	4,471	52%	49%
PONDERA	5,389	3,585	2,809	1,775	3,195	8,169	67%	59%
POWDER RIVER	1,588	506	410	251	468	1,167	32%	29%
POWELL	6,534	4,260	3,186	2,243	3,982	9,689	65%	61%
PRAIRIE	994	471	421	308	446	1,200	47%	45%
RAVALLI	42,972	24,787	20,013	15,238	22,434	60,038	58%	52%
RICHLAND	10,310	4,553	3,600	2,181	4,304	10,334	44%	42%
ROOSEVELT	9,918	6,036	4,555	2,654	5,425	13,245	61%	55%
ROSEBUD	8,160	5,479	4,381	2,650	4,902	12,510	67%	60%
SANDERS	11,641	5,097	4,235	2,849	4,542	12,181	44%	39%
SHERIDAN	3,075	1,952	1,720	1,298	1,854	4,970	63%	60%
SILVER BOW	33,267	24,019	20,603	14,486	21,963	59,108	72%	66%
STILLWATER	9,451	4,384	3,478	2,479	4,036	10,341	46%	43%
SWEET GRASS	3,523	1,717	1,330	980	1,557	4,027	49%	44%
TETON	5,819	3,145	2,230	1,518	2,682	6,893	54%	46%
TOOLE	4,391	2,362	1,788	974	2,209	5,124	54%	50%
TREASURE	623	436	297	193	321	926	70%	52%
VALLEY	6,931	3,451	2,783	2,091	3,256	8,325	50%	47%
WHEATLAND	2,035	814	701	478	756	1,993	40%	37%
WIBAUX	898	363	303	156	312	822	40%	35%
YELLOWSTONE	153,378	93,626	77,946	48,017	84,346	219,589	61%	55%
MONTANA	1,020,663	638,546	516,638	344,980	567,828	1,500,164	63%	56%